

Remarks

Claim Status

Claims 11-16 remain pending the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 15 and 16 recite allowable subject matter. These claims have been amended in independent form and generally recite the features of their former base claim 12. (We have not intended to forfeit equivalent arrangements through this amendment.) Claims 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

Formal Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 11 stands rejected for failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Office suggests that the applicant's specification fails to teach or suggest a scrambling procedure using a "chaotic baker map" (please see page 2, of the subject Office Action).

Yet claim 11 does not recite a "chaotic baker map" (please see claim 11 above). Instead, claim 11 recites features more broadly, see, e.g., claim 11's "*scrambling function*." We respectfully submit that there is adequate written description for claim 11.

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection are requested.

Art-based rejection over Dennis

Claims 12-14 stand rejected as being anticipated by Dennis (U.S. Patent No. 3,925,611). We respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 12

Dennis is not understood to teach *hiding* a message in an information carrier in the manner recited in claim 12.

Moreover, Dennis is not understood to teach or suggest *steganographically hiding* a message in an information carrier, as currently recited in claim 12. (We have not intended to forfeit equivalent arrangements through this amendment.)

We are also unsure of how Dennis is applied to teach *scaling a modulated encrypted message*, in combination with the other features of claim 12.¹

Claim 12 is believed to be in condition for allowance. (Other deficiencies of Dennis need not be belabored at this time.).

Claim 13

Claim 13 has been amended in independent form and generally includes the features of its former base claim 12. (We have not intended to forfeit equivalent arrangements through this amendment.)

Claim 13 recites that the information carrier comprises a video frame. The Office cites Col. 4, lines 34-43, as teaching such features. We have reviewed this passage, but fail to see where it teaches – or even mentions – a video frame as an information carrier, as contemplated in the combination recited in claim 13.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.² (Other deficiencies of Dennis need not be belabored at this time.).

Claim 14

Claim 14 has been amended in independent form and generally includes the features of its former base claim 12. No forfeiture of equivalent arrangements is intended by this amendment.

Claim 14 recites that scaling a modulated encrypted message scales a brightness level of the modulated encrypted message. Dennis, at the cited passage (Col. 4, lines 43-54), would only *convert* from a rotational encoding to a gray coding required on a transmission channel.

¹ Clarification is requested if the Office maintains this rejection.

² Clarification is requested if the Office maintains this rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.³ (Other deficiencies of Dennis need not be belabored at this time.).

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement and Form 1449 are submitted herewith. Consideration of the documents listed therein is respectfully requested.

Request for Personal Interview

Applicant respectfully requests a personal interview to discuss the pending claims in view of Dennis. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 503-469-4685 to schedule a convenient time for an interview if he picks up this amendment prior to applicant scheduling an interview.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance. (Other deficiencies of the art need not be belabored at this time.).

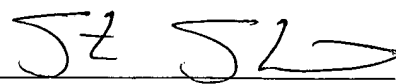
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Respectfully submitted,

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³ Clarification is requested if the Office maintains this rejection.